IXO-Like X-ray Telescope

[Draft - 07/25/11]

Name of Technology (256 char)	Thermal formed (slumped) glass mirror segments	Large-scale alignment and mounting of thin glass mirror segments	Gratings for dispersive x-ray spectrometer
Brief description of the technology (1024)	Thermally form, to precision mandrels, thin glass sheets into Wolter I mirror segments. Includes cutting mirrors to appropriate size, and coating with x-ray reflective material.	Thousands of mirror segments need to be aligned to one another, made confocal, and mounted in a flight housing. Mounting must not distort the mirror figure.	High ruling density off-plane (OP) reflective and critical angle transmission (CAT) x-ray gratings for dispersive x-ray spectroscopy.
Goals and Objectives (1024)	Requirement for perfectly aligned primary-secondary mirror pair are 3.3-6.6 arc-sec HPD for 5-10 arc-sec HPD mission, respectively. Manufactureability requirements drive fabrication yield and fabrication time/mirror segment. Need TRL 6 by 2014 for future mission development.	Alignement requirement for multiple segments and multiple shells is ~ 1.5 to 3 arc sec HPD. Figure distortion due to mounting and alignment must be less than 1.2 to 2.5 arc sec HPD. System must survive launch seismic and acoustic loads. TRL 6 by 2016 for future mission development.	Development of gratings with resolving power lambda/delta-lambda > 3000 over wavelengths of ~ 1.2 to 5 nm. High efficiency required to make use of full resolving power. Many individual grating cells or plates must be coaligned. TRL 6 by 2018.
TRL	Estimate current TRL at 4 - 5. Have achieved ~ 8.5 arc-sec HPD, but have not yet demonstrated manufacturing times required for large area telescopes.	Estimate current TRL at 3. Mirror segment pairs have been aligned and mounted to < 1.5 arc sec HPD. Figure distortion due to mounting exceeds requirements. Have not yet demonstrated alignment and mounting of mirror segments from multiple shells.	Estimate current TRL 4. Single reflective OP gratings have been made but have not yet demonstrated resolving power of several thousand. Lithographically made CAT gratings have also been manufactured, but with insufficient efficiency.
Tipping Point (100 words or less)	Better than 6.6 arc sec HPD will demonstrate performance for 10 arc sec mission positively rated by ASTRO2010. Process needs to be industrialized to make large scale production credible.	Moderate - alignment requirements met but mounting deformation ~ 5 times too high. Significant development still required.	Modest improvement in resolution will result in meeting science requirements.
NASA capabilities (100 words)	NASA GSFC leads in development of thermal forming and is fully equipped to continue experimentation.	NASA GSFC and SAO have developed alignment mounting techniques. Alternatives or similar approaches could be developed in optics industry.	NASA does not have capability but development capabiilty exists at MIT, Univ. of Colo., and Iowa State.
Benefit/Ranking	Thin mirror segments enable collecting area to exceed 1 sq m with existing launch vehicles. > 10x area of Chandra and better resolution than XMM. This enables study of early Universe, BH dynamics and GR, and WHIM.	Thin mirror segments enable collecting area to exceed 1 sq m with existing launch vehicles. > 10x area of Chandra and better resolution than XMM. This enables study of early Universe, BH dynamics and GR, and WHIM.	Gratings yield the high resolving power spectrum over the 0.1 to 1 keV bandwidth.
NASA needs/Ranking	Required for moderate to large collecting area x-ray telescopes.	Required for moderate to large collecting area x-ray telescopes.	Required for spectroscopy of WHIM. 10x resolving power of Chandra gratings.
Non-NASA but aerospace needs	NONE	NONE	NONE
Non aerospace needs			
Technical Risk	Low - current performance within ~ 30 per cent of requirements	Moderate - alignment requirements met but mounting deformation ~ 5 times too high. Major development still required.	Moderate - improvements in efficiency required to produce useful technology
Sequencing/Timing	As early as possible - "heart" of a telescope	As early as possible - "heart" of a telescope	Early in mission development as could drive spacecraft design, including focal plane design
Time and Effort to achieve goal	3 year collaboration between NASA and industry	5 year collaboration between NASA and industry	3 - 5 year NASA funded development. Choose instrument development teams by AO